



# THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Students Receive Personal Technology for Advanced Learning



The district launched its fifth-grade one-to-one laptop program with the distribution of Apple MacBooks to every student. The innovative program, coined "Kristin Green Apple of Our Eye Initiative," was dedicated in memory of Class of 2007 graduate Kristin Green and equips students with tools for 21st century learning.

John F. Kennedy Intermediate students, accompanied by an adult, arrived at their school and received a personal MacBook from fifth-grade teachers and district administrators. Students secured their laptops with protective covers for transport and everyday use and completed the registration process in the school's computer lab. Apple employees were on hand to assist students with their initial log-in and reviewed the standard installed software. In addition, students received a MacBook gift bag complete with power charger, memory card and other computer accessories.

The next school day students brought their laptops to class and began using the technology to support academic research



and lesson plans. Teachers tailored their lessons to create an interactive learning environment in all curricular areas. Students had the ability to solve math problems utilizing visual aids, create literary logs and explore multi-media presentations. To support the use of the laptops teachers combined instructional technology tools such as SMARTBoards and projectors to enhance learning.

Prior to introducing the program, all students and parents of fifth graders were required to attend a training workshop facilitated by Apple professionals to review topics such as the Required Use Policy, MacBook Care and Internet Safety.



## 2011 TOP TEN

Each year the district's educational community comes together to recognize the Top Ten academically ranked students of the graduating class. Guidance counselors announced the students and their respective ranks and described the traits that make each member of the Class of 2011 Top Ten an exceptional student and person. Throughout the program, the awards and accomplishments of students were highlighted, as well as their character and leadership skills.

### Class of 2011 Top Ten:

Emma Rosenthal	Valedictorian	Brittany Guttadauria	Sixth
Melissa Raynoha	Salutatorian	Mohammad Omair Ahmed	Seventh
Erik Zimmerman	Third	Michael Soldano	Eighth
Dana Norman	Fourth	Ahmel Arshad	Ninth
Yong Woo Kim	Fifth	Shanta Ramsaran	Tenth



*Superintendent of Schools Eva Demyen (far left) and High School Principal James Cummings (far right) congratulated the Class of 2011 Top Ten: (standing, left to right) Ahmel Arshad (#9), Erik Zimmerman (#3), Mohammad Omair Ahmed (#7), Yong Woo Kim (#5), Michael Soldano (#8); (seated, left to right); Dana Norman (#4), Shanta Ramsaran (#10), Emma Rosenthal (Valedictorian), Melissa Raynoha (Salutatorian) and Brittany Guttadauria (#6).*

# A Message from Your *Superintendent of Schools*



Dear Residents,

As we have now reached the halfway mark of the school year, I am proud to report that our students are continuing to achieve, both in and outside of the classroom. Students throughout our district have been selected to perform during county and regional music festivals, six of our fall athletic teams were named NYS Scholar-Athlete Teams based on their cumulative grade point averages, three seniors were selected by some of the nation's top colleges to sign Letters of Intent, and our Class of 2011 Top 10 students, who are pictured on page one, are a strong representation of the sound educational program Deer Park provides.

As detailed on the page to the right, we are continuing our efforts to reduce operating costs and create a 'greener' environment by partnering with LIPA, National Grid and Johnson Controls to implement several cost-saving initiatives throughout the school district. These projects, when

completed, will not only yield a cost-savings for our district, but will begin to pay for themselves within the next year.

As I reported in my last message, the district is piloting a one-to-one laptop program in the fifth grade at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School in memory of a Class of 2007 graduate who passed away last summer. The initiative has been successfully introduced and our students are excited to be using their MacBooks to conduct research and complete everyday lessons and presentations.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest appreciation to the more than 100 volunteers who helped to make our bone marrow donation drive in early December a huge success. Your dedication to this event and to Karl demonstrates how strong and supportive the Deer Park community truly is. Throughout the remainder of the year, our schools will continue to hold fundraisers and events to help support Karl and benefit the Zaharia family.

The arrival of winter marked the official start to our district's budget planning process, which will

culminate in the annual budget vote on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

Beginning in March, we will be devoting time during each of our Board of Education meetings to discuss the development of the 2011-2012 school budget. Given the economic climate we are currently faced with, coupled with our new governor's proposal of a potential tax cap, this year's budget process is certain to be a challenging one.

As we begin to work through this process I encourage all residents to take an active role in the planning for the future of our district by attending our upcoming Board of Education meetings. It is with your continued support and involvement in the Deer Park School District that we can work together to ensure the success of our students for years to come.

I hope you enjoyed a safe and healthy holiday season and I look forward to the New Year together.

Sincerely,

Eva J. Demyen  
Superintendent of Schools

## 2011-2012 BUDGET PLANNING TIMELINE

The Board of Education and district administration are in the process of developing a proposed budget for the 2011-2012 school year. Presentations on the current status of the budget, as well as discussions of specific budget areas, will take place on the dates listed below. All meetings will be held in the district office at 7:30 PM (unless otherwise noted).

**March 8, 2011**

**March 15, 2011**

**March 22, 2011** – Abraham Lincoln School at 8:00 PM

**March 29, 2011**

**April 12, 2011** – Official Adoption of Budget

**April 18, 2011** – Budget Available to Public for Review

**May 10, 2011** – Public Hearing

**May 17, 2011** – Budget & Board of Education Trustees Vote, 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM at Deer Park High School

# Deer Park Unveils Energy Efficiency Plan Set to Save District Millions

The district, in partnership with the Long Island Power Authority, National Grid and Johnson Controls, has developed a comprehensive Energy Efficiency Plan that will save the district money while simultaneously protecting the environment. Following an internal audit, district administrators and Buildings and Grounds team, the Energy Committee and the Board of Education worked to streamline proactive energy initiatives that would most benefit the school's students and community.

These proactive measures, which will produce residual effects for the next eighteen years, will generate an annual energy savings of \$555,000 with an approximate \$23,000 reduction in operations and maintenance costs. As a result of the facility and infrastructure upgrades, the district will benefit from a positive cash flow of approximately \$5.2 million over the next 18 years. To offset funding costs, the district has qualified for LIPA Energy Rebates totaling \$86,000 and 52% School Building Aid Ratio.

In addition to the savings, the district's green movement will also positively impact the environment. Through the more efficient use of resources, the district, in the first year, will save 311,960 gallons of gasoline, eliminate more than 1.3 million kilowatt hours, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 6 million pounds.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Deer Park educational community and energy experts, a proactive plan for the district has been created. Board of Education member and Energy Chairman Keith Rooney described the process and goals, stating, "We have used the past several years to assess the district's energy use and subsequently created a proactive plan that will save money while creating more efficient buildings. Not only will our schools and community realize a reduction in costs, but we will also provide a cleaner environment for our students to learn in."

The success of the energy plan was made possible due to a strong network of corporate partners. "LIPA is pleased to partner with the Deer Park School District, to give their students a more energy efficient and an environmentally responsible learning institution and will give them a first-hand look at what it means to be leaders in energy efficiency," said LIPA Vice President of Environmental Affairs, Michael J. Deering.

The district's Buildings and Grounds crew will implement upgrades throughout the school year and aim to have all projects completed in a year and a half. Highlights of the district-wide energy efficiency plan include:

1. Replacement of inefficient lighting district-wide
2. Installation of lighting occupancy sensors district-wide
3. Improvement of the weatherization and insulation of all school buildings
4. Installation of an Energy Management System that controls all buildings, set points and schedules
5. Boiler replacements at JFK Intermediate and May Moore Elementary Schools
6. Window replacements at the Abraham Lincoln School
7. Installation of computer management system to control all desktop computers district-wide



*The district announced its Energy Efficiency Plan and was joined by energy experts who will assist the district in the implementation of and funding for the various projects. Pictured (standing l-r): LIPA/National Grid Account Executive Rob Scipioni, Deer Park Plant Facilities Administrator Kirk J. Gostkowski, Deer Park Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Marguerite Jimenez, LIPA Vice President of Environmental Affairs Michael Deering, Johnson Controls Account Executive Keely Braud and Deer Park Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Frank Caliguiri. (Seated l-r): Deer Park Board of Education Trustee Dennis Ryan, Superintendent of Schools Eva Demyen, Board of Education President John Gouskos, Board of Education Trustee and Energy Chairman Keith Rooney, and Board of Education Trustee Donna Marie Elliott.*

# Students Connect Using TECHNOLOGY

The high school and May Moore Elementary School combined instructional technology tools and educational resources to provide students districtwide with a unique learning opportunity. In a program introduced as "Bridging SMARTBoards



High school students instructed May Moore Elementary School students in money lessons through videoconferencing technology using classroom SMARTBoards.

Across the District," students at the high school had the ability to connect with younger students to complete joint lessons. High school students in Jill Perry-Eising's business class interacted with Susan Steinman's second-grade students, creating a virtual classroom experience.

To culminate the elementary curriculum unit on money, high school students directed a variety of activities focused on coins. Students worked together using SMARTBoards, MacBooks and Document and Web Cameras to solve problems that covered different money topics.

High school students first instructed elementary students on the skills necessary to complete each task. Working individually as well as a team, elementary students displayed their work on the SMARTBoards through the use of visual aids such as coin images, cash registers and piggy banks.

# Students Take Top Spots in Business Competition

Several high school students successfully competed in Adelphi University's Apprentice Competition claiming first and second place. Business students from across Long Island were challenged to develop an advertising campaign for Snapple products and create a marketing strategy for a holiday film. After formulating their projects, teams presented their ideas and plans of action to a panel of judges from Adelphi University.

The high school's championship students credited the district's business curriculum for their successes in the apprentice competition. The high school offers diverse business courses, such as Advertising and Multimedia and School Store, in which students manage the finances and merchandise of the school store. In addition, as members of the school's DECA club Deer Park students have participated in a variety of programs that have prepared them to emerge as leaders and entrepreneurs in careers such as marketing, finance, hospitality and management.



High school business students (l-r) Magnolia Chiri, Kayla Downs, Phil Scarfi and Merly Bonilla competed in Adelphi University's Apprentice Competition. Phil Scarfi's team took first place, while Kayla Downs' team came in a close second.

# An Explosion of Science & Fun at Deer Park's JQA Elementary

John Quincy Adams Elementary School sparked imaginative learning in students through the Mad Science program. Mad Science is the world's leading science enrichment provider that delivers unique, hands-on science experiences.

Scientist William visited students and introduced them to a world of discovery that focused on scientific literacy. Students worked as assistants to Scientist William, who conducted a variety of visual experiments. He took students through the scientific process, explaining and discussing with students the supplies needed, proper procedure and chemical reactions in each experiment. For the grand finale, students had the opportunity to ride atop a Hover Craft as Scientist William described the mechanics of the "floating" vehicle.



John Quincy Adams Elementary School students experienced science in motion, riding a Hover Craft and learning how it was built and works to transport items and people.



Scientist William of Mad Science educated and entertained John Quincy Adams Elementary School students through experiments, which used common household items.

# Scholar Receives National Award



High school senior Emma Rosenthal is a 2010-2011 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar.

High School Class of 2011 Valedictorian Emma Rosenthal has been named a National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar. Emma received this prestigious academic recognition from the College Board based on her superior performance on the PSAT and her ability to secure a grade point average above 3.5. The National Hispanic Recognition award is a competitive program which identifies nearly 5,000 outstanding Hispanic/Latino students each year from a nationwide pool of more than 200,000 students.

# Students Build a Wall of Heroes

Kindergarten students in Tammy Cotrone's class at May Moore Elementary School created a "Wall of Heroes" to honor the men and women who have served and are actively serving the country. The display showcased photos, biographies and accolades of men and women in various branches of the United States armed forces who are students' family members, friends and residents of Deer Park.

Prior to creating their display of appreciation, the students learned the meaning and significance of military service and shared artifacts and stories of friends and family members who have fought in wars throughout history. The students also created a wreath of red, white and blue handprints to represent the unity of Americans and support of military men and women. Ms. Cotrone then presented the wreath to veterans at Babylon Town Hall.



May Moore Elementary students created a "Wall of Heroes" to showcase the men and women in their lives who have served in the United States Military.

Honoring a member of the district's educational community, students wrote personal letters to school custodian and Vietnam veteran John Conklin. Students illustrated their messages and presented Mr. Conklin with a book of thanks and appreciation for his service.

# Soaps for Seniors

Robert Frost Middle School Student Council held their annual "Soaps for Seniors" program. The unique community service project aimed to collect personal care items for the residents of Our Lady of Consolation Nursing and Rehabilitation Care Center. Thanks to the generous donations made by the school's students and faculty members, each resident received a gift bag filled with essential personal care items. During the drive, the students collected a variety of toiletry products, such as lotion, toothpaste, combs, shampoo, cotton swabs and body spray. Student Council members came together to sort and create individual care packages for the senior citizens.



Robert Frost Middle School Student Council members collected, sorted and packaged toiletry items for their "Soaps for Seniors" project.

## Teammates Sign Letters of Intent

High school seniors Tom Miele and Conner Hickem have committed to attend the New York Institute of Technology in the fall of 2011. Tom and Conner were recruited and both signed Letters of Intent to play on the men's lacrosse team. This spring Tom and Conner will play their final season of high school lacrosse and bring their experiences as talented individual athletes and teammates to the NYIT Bears squad.

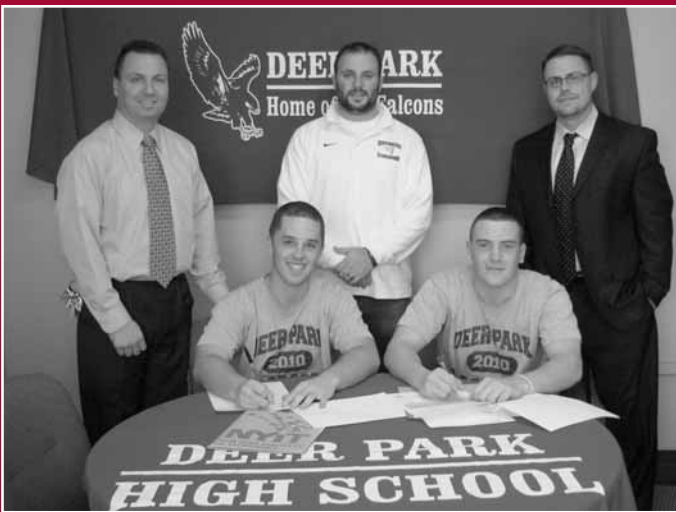
To recognize this achievement (l-r) District Administrator of Athletics, Physical Education, Health & Recreation Dominick Fontana, Varsity Lacrosse Coach Thomas Zummo and High School Principal James Cummings came together to watch Tom and Conner sign their Letters of Intent.



## Senior Signs Letter of Intent

Based on her outstanding athletic talents and academic promise, Deer Park High School senior Holli Locker was selected to sign a Letter of Intent to play lacrosse and attend Dominican College. Holli is an active member of the Deer Park educational community who participates in the Environmental, Varsity Leaders and African American clubs. In addition, she has been recognized for her character on the athletic fields, receiving both the Sportsmanship Award and Scholar-Athlete status.

Holli was joined by (l-r) her father Samuel Locker, Jr., Girls Varsity Lacrosse Coach Anthony Saccone and District Administrator of Athletics, Physical Education, Health & Recreation Dominick Fontana, when she signed her Letter of Intent to play lacrosse at Dominican College.



## Student-Athletes Score

The district is proud to announce that six high school fall athletic teams achieved New York State Scholar-Athlete status. In order to earn this designation, the team achieved and maintained a cumulative grade point average of 90 or better throughout the entire season. In addition, Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer and Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country teams were selected as Section XI Outstanding Sportsmanship Teams. At the younger level, the Junior Varsity and Robert Frost Middle School Football teams both received the Sportsmanship Award for their leagues. These teams were selected for this award based on the recommendations of officials and opposing teams for their fair play and good sportsmanship on the field of competition.

The Varsity Girls Soccer squad dominated on the field and captured the League V Conference Championship under the leadership of Head Coach Ian Kyranakis, who was voted Coach of the Year by the Suffolk County Coaches Association.



*The Varsity Girls Soccer Team completed a successful season on and off the field, claiming the League V Conference Championship, New York State Scholar-Athlete Team status and recognition as a Section XI Outstanding Sportsmanship Team. At a recent Board of Education meeting the student-athletes and coaches received certificates for their achievements.*



## TEACHER *Spotlight*

Robert Frost Middle School eighth-grade English teacher Carla DeVito, a valued member of the district's educational community, has been recognized as a 2010 Educator of Excellence by the New York State English Council. Ms. DeVito was nominated by Associate Principal Gary Ramonetti for her ability to inspire excellence in students, as well as fellow teachers.

As an educator, Ms. DeVito works to enhance curriculum with instructional technology tools and motivates students to explore literacy through unique perspectives. In order to connect students to their work and with one another, she created a classroom Wiki Space for students to use as an interactive portal to share content. Through the English-focused website, students have the ability to review classroom materials, engage in Literature Circles, and view Author Spotlights. Students also use the website to post book reports and writing assignments, creating a forum for discussion and insight on their works. In addition, Ms. DeVito teaches students to expand their creative horizons by transforming literary works into visual features. Students craft scripts, develop characters, and ultimately produce short movies.

Ms. DeVito works throughout the school year to ensure student growth as individual and group learners. She states, "My goal is to create a student-driven environment where students learn from one another. I encourage my students to take literature to the next level by integrating other curricular areas into their reading and writing experiences."

To reinforce this method, Ms. DeVito introduced students to the Greek language during their studies of ancient mythology in order to highlight the cultural and historical aspects of the literary lessons.

As a result of Ms. DeVito's efforts, middle school students are equipped with the extensive writing skills and interest in the world of literature that are needed for success in high school and beyond.

## Student Musicians *Excel in the Arts*

The district works together to educate the whole student and provide each with opportunities to showcase and enhance their talents. Four fine and performing arts students were selected to participate in the Long Island String Festival and performed during the organization's county-wide ensembles. High School student Noah Roff played the viola, along with high school violinist Catherine Xie and Robert Frost Middle School violinist Juliet Quirindongo who performed in the Suffolk Secondary Festival. Robert Frost Middle School student Nicholas Dimodica represented the district in the Suffolk Elementary Festival, playing the violin.

In addition, several district elementary students were chosen to participate in the PEAK Festival, sponsored by the Suffolk County Music Educators Association (SCMEA). PEAK, which stands for "Parents, Educators And Kids," is a special program for musically talented fourth graders in which students, parents and music teachers participate in a variety of musical workshops to hone and enhance students' skills and broaden their interests in music. District students Kristen Alo, Christopher Burke, Sam Canonica, Amaya Castor, Alexandria Costanza, Julie DeBiase, Rebecca Fox, Julianna Monaco and Katelyn Reuss came together to enjoy a new perspective on musical education.

At the county level, nineteen district students from the high school, Robert Frost Middle School and John F. Kennedy Intermediate School will participate in the Suffolk County Music Educators Association (SCMEA) All-County Music Festivals. Students will join other division central schools and perform in the band, orchestra and chorus ensembles.

Congratulations to the following music students for their selection in SCMEA's All-County winter concert series: Alexander Stephani, Faith Ahmed, Crystal Harris, Noah Roff, Mayedun Ogunsanwo, Christopher Zieris, Trevor Bernard, John Dimodica, Justin Napolitano, Vincent Verdile, Kimberly Blair, Olivia Grizzle, Sam Henkle, Mauricio Montes, Lexxi Saal, Sydney Staton, Dana Buquicchio, Francesca Powers and Joseph Giammona.



\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
Postal Customer

## Community Rallies for Student in Need

Bright orange t-shirts and a wide variety of fundraisers were the cornerstones for an initiative the district put into place in support of Robert Frost Middle School student Karl Zaharia. Karl was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL). Rallying together to help support Karl, the district coordinated several events to not only raise funds for the Zaharia family, but also to work to find a cure for Karl's ALL.

In a partnership with DKMS Bone Marrow Donor Center, the district hosted a bone marrow donor drive. More than 100 volunteers including students, teachers, administrators and community members helped to register and screen participants and raise awareness of this worthy cause. The drive was a tremendous success, resulting in more than 750 people getting swabbed and completing the potentially life-saving process.

The district will continue to facilitate a variety of fundraisers throughout the school year and keep Karl connected with his school and peers.



*Robert Frost Middle School art students created cards and designed posters to benefit student Karl Zaharia as part of the "Kards for Karl" campaign.*

## WARNING ON CHILDREN'S MEDICATION DOSAGE

Researchers from medical schools have found inconsistencies in almost 99 percent of the products tested between dosing directions on the labels of children's medications and the markings on the medicine cups in which they were packaged. Two hundred top-selling pediatric liquid-over-the-counter medications of 2009 were tested. Of the products tested, about a quarter of them lacked necessary markings, over 80 percent had unnecessary or superfluous markings, and in 89 percent of them, the text on the label didn't match the unit of measurement on the measuring device. New legislation has been introduced to ensure consistency in children's medicine cups. Please check your children's medication labels for accuracy.

## Kindergarten Registration

CHILD MUST BE 5 YEARS OLD BY 12/1/11

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Proof of Residence – 2 forms required (tax bill, lease, utility bill, residency affidavit if applicable)
- Parent/Guardian Identification (driver's license)
- Child's Original Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Custodial Papers (if applicable)

Please visit the Central Registration page of the district's website for more information at: [www.deerparkschools.org](http://www.deerparkschools.org).

### DATES:

Monday, March 7, 2011 –  
Friday, March 11, 2011

### LOCATION:

Washington Avenue School  
220 Washington Avenue  
Deer Park, New York 11729

### TIMES:

JQA – 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  
MM – 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

*Please call 274-4372 to make an appointment.*

## TAX CODE - 142

When filling out your State Income Tax Form, please be certain to fill in the Deer Park School District Tax Code number (142) in the appropriate space provided. School aid will be affected if the school district or code is incorrect or missing. You must enter the name and code number of the public school district where you were a resident on December 31, 2010. This information applies even if you were temporarily absent, if the school your child attended was not in your school district, or if you did not have children attending school.

## REQUEST FOR

## TRANSPORTATION DEADLINE

In accordance with Education Law and Board of Education policy, all requests for transportation of children to private and parochial schools outside the district for the school year 2011-2012 must be submitted in writing by parent, guardian, or authorized representative (forms available in the District Office) postmarked not later than April 1, 2011. Requests should be sent to the District Transportation Supervisor located at 81 Lake Avenue.



*School news  
and photos  
compiled by  
Marissa  
Sanseverino.*

### Board of Education

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